

TDOC VICTIM SERVICES MISSION

Mission: To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.



Victim Services Division

Tennessee Department of Correction
404 James Robertson Pkwy Suite 1300
Nashville, TN 37243-0850
Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Phone: 615-253-8145

Fax: 615-741-5337

Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Website:

<http://www.tn.gov/correction/victiminformation/victimservices.html>

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Board of Parole

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1300
Nashville, TN 37243-0850
Phone: 615-741-1150 / Fax: 615-741-5337
Email: victim.witness@tn.gov
Website: www.tn.gov/bop/victims

TN District Attorney General Conference

Phone: 615-741-1696 / Fax: 615-741-7459
Email: contact@tndagc.org
Website: www.tndagc.com/

Criminal Injury Compensation

Division of Claims Administration
Phone: 615-741-2734 / Fax: (615) 532-4979
Email: Criminal.Injury@tn.gov
Website: www.treasury.tn.gov/injury/index.html

State Attorney General

Victim Liaisons
Phone: 615-741-8109 / 615-532-1971
Website: www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/

Crime Survivor's Guide

* Available from the website below

You Have the Power, Inc.

2814 Twelfth Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: 615-292-7027
Email: Cathy.Gurley@yhnp.org
Website: www.yhnp.org



VICTIM SERVICES

Derrick D. Schofield

Commissioner

Bill Gupton

Assistant Commissioner of

Rehabilitative Services

Shenette Cheatham

Director of Victim Services

"We will not compromise public safety."
-Derrick D. Schofield, Commissioner

TDOC SERVICES PROVIDES:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification regarding any hearings, decisions, release dates, movement to a prison designated with a lower security level, escape of an offender, or pending execution

- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/ correspondence from an offender

TDOC Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, the Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education for TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

- Martin Luther King

Programs facilitated by the Victim Services Department:

Victim Impact Classes for Offenders

TDOC provides classes to offenders to teach them about the impact of crime on victims, victim families, and the families of the offender. The class is a 12-week curriculum in therapeutic communities, substance abuse programs, transition programs, and release readiness classes.

Victims/survivors of crime who are willing to speak to an audience of offenders are invited to come into the prison and speak about the impact crime has had on his/her life, and the lives of their loved ones.

Victim Awareness

Victim Services creates awareness regarding the harm experienced from crime to victims and to the community. Within TDOC, we have an annual Victim Impact Awareness Week to engage offenders, staff, and local victim advocacy agencies around increasing offender accountability and supporting crime victims.

Victim Offender Dialogue

Victim Offender Dialogue is a process in which the victim of a violent crime initiates a meeting with the offender who committed the offense. The focus is on the harm done to the victim and the offender's responsibility in the reparation of that harm.



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Frequently asked questions:

As a crime victim, will I be notified of upcoming parole hearings or release dates for the offender?

To receive notification of upcoming parole hearings, release dates, escape of an offender, or pending execution, you must request registration through Victim Services of either the Tennessee Department of Correction, or the Board of Probation and Parole.

Registration forms are also available on-line at:

www.TN.gov/correction/voice.html

If I register, will my contact information be safe?

As of July 1, 2009, all contact information from interested persons requesting notification about inmates is maintained as confidential.

Why was the offender moved to a prison with a lower security designation?

TDOC moves offenders for many reasons. Lower Security Designation does not mean the facility is less secure; it refers to a prison that is limited to the inmate custody levels that can be housed there.

Why does the offender's release date continue to change to an earlier date?

Most judgment orders for offenders provide for that person to serve a percentage of the whole sentence. Times are governed by state law; even most offenders with a 100% sentence must serve 85% of that time.